Supreme Court Direction on ICDS

278. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the direction given by the Supreme Court with regard to extending ICDS to all children below six years of age;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only a marginal improvement in malnutrition rates in the country which stood at 45.9 per cent in 2005-06, when compared to 46.7 per cent in 1998-99;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in view of parts (a) and (b) above, her Ministry is planning to revamp the ICDS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In its Order of 13.12.2006, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has, *inter alia*, directed that ICDS be universalized by extending all ICDS services *viz.* supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, nutrition & health educations, immunization, referral and pre-school education, to every child under the age of 6, all pregnant women and lactating mothers and all adolescent girls.

(b) The overall decline in malnutrition amongst children below 3 years, as per findings of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) 2005-06, has been about one per cent only. However, there is considerable variation amongst States. While 17 States have registered an improvement in nutritional status, in the remaining 12 States, the nutritional status has actually declined since 1998-99 when the second round of NFHS was carried out.

(c) As nutritional status is an outcome of food consumed and effect of various diseases on the human body and malnutrition is inter-generational in nature, the reasons for this problem are varied. Poor access to health care facilities, low coverage of immunization, lack of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities are also contributory factors for sub-optimal outcomes of the ICDS Scheme.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. the details, however, are being worked out.

UN-funds for women and child development

279. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds received from the United Nations for improvement of conditions of women and children in the country during the last three years;

(b) the amount released by Government to States under this project during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have recieved complaints with regard to improper utilization of funds by the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, a UNDP-GOI Project on Gender Equality for tracking and monitoring progress across sectors in achievement of national commitments to gender equality and empowerment of women is ongoing. The areas of focus of this Project are aligned to cross-cutting strategies that are central to gender mainstreaming efforts in the country. An amount of Rs. 1.56 crore and Rs. 1.50 crore were released to various agencies involved in the Project during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. Funds are not released to the State Government under this Project.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Malnutrition among children

280. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICDS clearly indicates that over 50 per cent of the children in the Anganwadis in the cities are in various grades of malnutrition;

(b) if so, the details of Government's information in this regard;

(c) whether the large scale eviction of people and denial of basic facilities had resulted in so many children suffering from malnutrition;

(d) if so, the comments of Government thereupon; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that even though people have ration cards, no foodgrain is supplied by the shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) 49.90% children in the Anganwadis are normal as per classification of nutrition status. Of the remaining, 33.6% are mildly underweight while 16.42% are moderately and severely underweight details are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) Information on impact of large scale eviction of people on malnutrition is not available. However, denial of basic facilities like safe drinking water, sanitation, access to health care and other social services is an important cause of malnutrition.

(d) The Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition and is implementing a number of schemes which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of children. Some of these are as under:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme [Ministry of Women and Child Development];

(ii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls [Ministry of Women and Child Development];

(iii) Nutrition Education & Awareness Programmes of Food & Nutrition Board, Ministry of Women and Child Development;